

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A variable alignment zipper comprising:  
a first interlockable profile having a longitudinally extending web portion and having a longitudinally extending locking portion, said locking portion of the first profile having a plurality of continuous shaped ribs extending therealong, said ribs having a central tip and barbs extending laterally at each side of the tip with the barbs providing a first interlocking contact area;

a second interlockable profile having a longitudinally extending web portion and having a longitudinally extending locking portion, said locking portion of the second profile having a plurality of continuous shaped ribs extending therealong with one and only one of said ribs having a central tip and a pair of barbs extending laterally at each side of the tip and said rib with a central tip of said second profile bordered by two of said ribs shaped with a distal end with one and only one barb extending laterally from the distal end with the barbs providing a second interlocking contact area;

a first plurality of continuous grooves therebetween the ribs of said second profile, said first plurality of continuous grooves receptive in at least one interlocking relationship to the ~~locking portion of said first profile~~

3. (Amended) The variable alignment zipper in accordance with claim 1, wherein said locking portion of the first interlockable profile includes three ribs.

Q2 4. (Amended) The variable alignment zipper in accordance with claim 1, wherein said one and only one barb of at least two of said ribs shaped with a distal end extends laterally to said at least one of said ribs having a central tip.

---